

(FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine to increase the availability of drugs for minor animal species and rare diseases in all animals. The Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 required the FDA to provide Congress with a report, describing administrative and legislative proposals to improve and enhance the animal drug approval process for minor uses and minor species of new animal drugs. This report by FDA, delivered to Congress in December 1998, laid out nine proposals. Eight of FDA's proposals required statutory changes. The bill my colleagues and I are introducing today reflects the changes called for in FDA's minor species/minor use report while maintaining and ensuring public health.

The MUMS legislation outlines two new ways to lawfully market new animal drugs:

(1) It establishes a conditional approval mechanism for new animal drugs for minor uses and minor species. Conditionally approved new animal drugs must meet the same safety requirements as new animal drugs approved under Section 512 in that a 'reasonable expectation of effectiveness' as opposed to 'substantial evidence of effectiveness' must be demonstrated. If conditional approval is granted by the Food and Drug Administration, the approval will be effective for one year and renewable for a maximum of four additional years. This process will allow drug sponsors to recapture some development costs through marketing the product prior to full, unconditional approval.

(2) MUMS establishes an index of legally marketed unapproved new animal drugs for non-food minor species. The index will provide a mechanism to lawfully market minor species drugs for which there is unlikely to be sufficient financial incentives to seek full or conditional approvals. If the FDA determines that a new drug is eligible for an index listing, it will be included in the index if benefits outweigh perceived risks. Additionally, the harm caused by the absence of an approved or conditionally approved drug will be taken into account when making this determination. An independent expert panel will be largely responsible for determining whether or not the drug may be allowed to be included in the index.

None of the provisions outlined in the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act will weaken the FDA's responsibilities of ensuring the safety of animal drugs to the public. The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine currently evaluates new animal drug products prior to approval and use. The rigorous review and testing process provides consumers with the confidence that animal drugs are safe for animals and consumers of products derived from those animals. Currently, FDA guidelines include requirements to prevent harmful residues and evaluations to examine the potential for the selection of resistant pathogens. Any animal drug considered for approval under this legislation will be subject to the same requirements.

The Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act is supported by the Food and Drug Administration, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Animal Health Institute, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and virtually every organization representing all genres of minor animal species. Mr. Speaker, this is vital legislation which is needed now. This Act will alleviate much animal suffering, it will promote the health of minor animal spe-

cies while protecting and promoting human health, it will benefit pets and promote the emotional security of their owners, benefit various endangered species of aquatic animals, and will reduce economic risks and hardships to farmers and ranchers.

This is common-sense legislation which will benefit millions of Americans from farmers and ranchers to pet owners and wildlife biologists, in addition to the animals themselves. I call on all my colleagues in the House to support the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. ROBERTS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS MARQUETTE
COUNTY CLERK

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of David Roberts, who since 1986 has served the people of Marquette County, Michigan, as Marquette County Clerk.

Dave Roberts is taking a well-earned retirement from public service after more than seventeen years of conscientious and devoted work for the people of Marquette County.

Those of us in government office know that public officials at the local level are on the true front lines of government service. Even if the County Clerk is not the person who created a law, engineered a road fix or streamlined a County budget, he or she is the face that most members of the public know and turn to when they have questions, complaints or, less often, compliments. The County Clerk is also the person that other elected officials look to for answers about County government issues.

Dave Roberts, as County Clerk has the lives of County residents in his keeping, in the form of public records such as birth, marriage, death and real estate filings. He acts as clerk of the County Board and, in Marquette County, as clerk of the circuit court.

Dave held this hot seat in Marquette County government with great dedication, composure and his ever present sense of humor. He filled his Clerk's responsibilities in a highly capable fashion, always keeping at the forefront his concern for others. Dave's way of dealing with people, whether they came to the Clerk's office on the warpath, or with a simple question, will be a great example and legacy for his successor. He leaves big shoes to fill.

Dave Roberts is a native of the Marquette area and graduated in 1965 from Negaunee high school. He earned his bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University in 1974 and then worked toward a master's degree in creative writing. He also worked for Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. for twelve years before being appointed County Clerk in 1985 following the retirement of previous clerk Henry A. Skewis.

Dave served as president of the Michigan Association of County Clerks in 1995 and 1996. He was active in that association during his years as Marquette County Clerk, and in 2000 received the well-deserved honor of being named Michigan County Clerk of the Year by his fellow association members.

Congratulations also are due to Dave's wife Patricia and their four children, Sheri, Debi,

Andrew and Jessica, who have supported Dave in his work and at home over the years. Pat herself is a big part of the community and has been a corrections officer at the Marquette Branch Prison for 18 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave Roberts on his accomplishments and service as Marquette County Clerk, and to join me in wishing him great success in his writing, his travel, and even in improving his golf game—three things that he said he intends to spend some time on in retirement.

I hope that Marquette County has not seen the last of his contributions to civic life as well.

TO HONOR MAYOR GEORGE VAN
DUSEN ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, the Mayor of Skokie, Illinois, George Van Dusen on his 60th birthday. Mayor Van Dusen has faithfully served the people of the Village of Skokie since 1984, first in the role of Trustee, and since 1999 as Mayor. Over the last several years, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with him on behalf of the people of Skokie.

During his tenure as Mayor, Skokie has been recognized for excellence in education and public services. Skokie's Niles North High School was recently cited as one of the country's best high schools by both Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report magazine. In 2002, the Village was awarded the Governor's Hometown Award for municipal excellence and received an "All American City" finalist distinction from the National Civic League. Skokie is the first town in the United States to have nationally accredited Fire, Police and Public Works Departments.

I am proud of Mayor Van Dusen and the Village of Skokie for all of their impressive accomplishments. I know there will be more achievements and milestones for the Village of Skokie to celebrate in the time to come. I look forward to joining Mayor Van Dusen to mark those meaningful dates as well.

HELP SHED LIGHT ON
INTERNATIONAL WIRE TRANSFERS

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "International Money Transfer Disclosure Act of 2003," a bill to require disclosures involving international money wire transactions.

Immigrants throughout the United States work hard, save money and send billions of dollars to relatives living in foreign countries. The money sent home helps finance basic needs ranging from food and medicine to education and new homes. Unfortunately, customers wiring money abroad are often losing millions of dollars to undisclosed "currency